

**Minutes**  
**Regional Airspace Planning Subcommittee**  
**City Council City of Scottsdale**

**March 19, 2003**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Via Linda Senior Center**

**Attendance:** Councilmembers Lukas (chair of the Subcommittee), Ecton and Littlefield

**I. Adoption of Minutes from Organizational meeting of February 3, 2003.**

Minutes were approved as drafted (3-0).

**II. Adoption of the Subcommittee Charter and Goals**

Corrine Young, CAAN, lauded the City Council for Creating the Subcommittee. Scott Caleb commented that the draft charter did not specifically include the term, "noise." The Subcommittee members responded that noise is under the term "aviation issues."

Nick Luongo asked if it was possible to amend the charter at a later date if necessary. Councilmember Lukas responded that we could. The charter was approved as drafted (3-0).

**III. Subcommittee Member Reports**

This item was moved up on the agenda.

Councilmember Ecton reported on meetings in Washington D.C. during March 7-11, 2003.

On March 10, Councilmembers Ecton and Ortega, Mayor Manross and Steve Olson met with FAA representatives. At the meeting the FAA committed to 1) following up on the need to improve radar coverage serving Scottsdale Airport; 2) work with Scottsdale representatives on mitigating the impacts resulting from changes in flight paths; and 3) cooperating with Scottsdale if Scottsdale and the region are able to obtain funding for a regional airspace plan.

Following the meeting with the FAA, there was a meeting with Rob Chamberlain, the Aviation specialist on the Senate Commerce Committee staff chaired by Senator McCain. Mr. Chamberlain encouraged the effort to include in future FAA Reauthorization language funding for a Regional Airspace Study. In further meetings with Senator Kyl

and staff for Congressman Hayworth, Scottsdale was encouraged to pull together the region and obtain funding for the Airspace Plan. Altogether the Congressional delegation will support funding for a regional airspace plan if regional support is obtained.

Councilmember Ecton reported that he attended a meeting of N.O.I.S.E., National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment while in Washington, D.C. The meeting was a good way to hear about other areas experiencing problems with airport noise. The thing that most stood out is that Scottsdale's issues are somewhat different than other areas. The complexity of the large number of airports in the region creates different dynamics than what is experienced by the NOISE members.

Councilmember Ecton also attended the Quiet Skies hearing before the Court of Appeals on March 11. His observation is that the Courts will rely heavily on the Court Briefs in making their decision.

Council member Ecton reported on attending a public meeting of the Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Airspace Committee (RASP). He said that the meeting was very informative. The main focus of the RASP is on runways, airports and technology. They are not looking at regional airspace plans. There are plans for new regional "feeder" airports, including one to the east of Scottsdale. Councilmember Littlefield commented that the RASP is really a facilities plan. The focus of RASP is on things under local control and local governments do not regulate airspace.

Corrine Young commented that the Governor's Aviation Council is seeking \$1 million for airspace studies. She suggested that Scottsdale work with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

#### **IV. Overview on the Airport Noise Reporting Program**

Kevin Shirer made a presentation on the Airport Noise Reporting and Noise Abatement Program. (Outline of Presentation attached.)

Scott Caleb commented that staff is doing an excellent job. A staff visit changed his perspective. He indicated that the NW 2000 opened his eyes about the impact of planes flying in and out of Scottsdale Airport. He looks forward to the installation of improved radar. He said City needs to pursue prohibitions.

Councilmember Ecton commented that the Airport staff is trying to be practical in addressing improvements through letters to pilots, pilot pledges and informational activities. These efforts seem to be effective but we need more efforts in this regard. He asked if the training schools were compliant or resistant to our requests to move training operations away from neighborhoods.

Councilmember Ecton also stated his concern about safety. He asked why pilots were making errors resulting in crashes. He stated that other things may be happening to cause

pilots to make errors. He inquired whether or not we are doing enough to understand the causes of accidents.

Kevin Shirer continued his presentation focusing on flight tracking systems.

Councilmember Ecton indicated that investment in flight tracking might be more productive than spending money on answering complaints.

Councilmember Lukas asked about the availability of grants and how long it might take to obtain funding. Kevin Shirer responded it could take a year or more.

Councilmember Littlefield expressed the thought that tracking flights and complaints will both still need to be done.

Tom Guilfooy stated that complaints would not necessarily go away with the purchase of a tracking system.

Scott Caleb asked if the system could help identify if the planes were associated with Scottsdale or Sky Harbor Airports. He also asked if the tracking system could help change the way airspace is planned.

Councilmember Littlefield said it would help if the system could identify pilots that are breaking rules.

John Little suggested that staff would prepare additional information from other communities that are using flight-tracking systems.

Ben Kessner stated that it is very difficult to read N-numbers.

Scott Gray indicated that penalties for non-compliant pilots would be enforced by the FAA. The city sends a letter to the pilot suggesting additional training or may report the alleged offense to the FAA.

Nick Luongo read a prepared statement (attached).

## **V. Discussion by Subcommittee on the Noise Abatement/Safety Program**

A handout (attached) was distributed as part of the agenda packet. There was no discussion.

## **VI. Discussion by Subcommittee on Part 150/161 Studies**

Scott Gray provided an update on the status of the City's request for Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study and Part 161 Noise Abatement study funds from the FAA. It was reported that now that the FAA budget was approved, federal funds are expected. The

consultant, Coffman and Associates are ready to begin work when funds become available.

Councilmember Littlefield asked how long it would take to do the studies. Mr. Gray responded it would take 9 to 12 months. He added that there would be citizen involvement in conducting these studies as well as a number of public hearings.

#### **VII. Discussion on Radar Coverage**

Scott Gray reviewed a letter sent by John Little to the FAA (Attached). The letter expresses the City's frustration with the continued delays in the program.

#### **VIII. Update on Current Issues**

John Little pointed out that Item number III Subcommittee Member Reports covered many of these issues.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

Nick Luongo addressed the need for more publicity about these meetings.

Scott Caleb commented that he would volunteer to call citizens back about complaints.

Councilmember Lukas noted that Commissioner Guilfooy has offered to make a technical presentation on Scottsdale Airspace issues either at a future meeting or one-on-one. The Subcommittee felt it would be a good idea to hear from Commissioner Guilfooy at its next meeting.

#### **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the third Wednesday of the month, April 15, 2003.

Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.